

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/675,563

Examiner

Chuc D. Tran

Applicant(s)

HOFFMANN ET AL.

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to October 02, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5-26 and 28.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/30/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

THO PHAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jean-Paul Cass, Tel: (978) 341-0036 on November 30, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 4, "respective beam angles of the directional antenna" has been changed to -
- respective beam angles of the directional antenna, wherein causing the MAC layer to provide the metrics includes receiving a table of previously calculated metrics from the MAC layer - -.

Claims 4 and 27 have been cancelled.

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on February 26, 2004. These drawings are accepted.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-3, 5-26 and 28 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art Proctor fails to disclose or suggest in combination with the remaining limitations: a method for causing a Medium Access Control (MAC) layer to provide metrics associated with respective beam angles of the directional antenna; wherein causing the MAC layer to provide the metrics includes receiving a table of previously calculated metrics from the

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MAC layer in claim 1, (claims 2-3, 5-26 and 28 are allowed since they are dependent on claim 1).

Prior art Proctor fails to disclose or suggest in combination with the remaining limitations: a method for causing a Medium Access Control (MAC) layer to provide metrics associated with respective beam angles of the directional antenna; and based on the metrics, steering the directional antenna to a selected direction associated with an Access Point (AP), and causing the MAC layer to provide the metrics includes causing the MAC layer to calculate the metrics as a function of a beacon signal in claim 5.

Prior art Proctor fails to disclose or suggest in combination with the remaining limitations: a Station Management Entity (SME) that causes a Medium Access Control (MAC) layer to provide metrics associated with respective beam angles of the directional antenna; and an antenna control unit coupled to the directional antenna that receives input based on the metrics from the SME and, in turn, causes the directional antenna to steer an antenna beam to a selected direction associated direction associated with an Access Point (AP) in claim 14, (claims 15-17 and 19-26 are allowed since they are dependent on claim 14).

Prior art Proctor fails to disclose or suggest in combination with the remaining limitations: a Station Management Entity (SME) that causes a Medium Access Control (MAC) layer to provide metrics associated with respective beam angles of the directional antenna: and an antenna control unit coupled to the directional antenna that receives input based on the metrics from the SME and, in turn, causes the directional antenna to steer an antenna beam to a selected direction associated direction associated with an Access Point (AP), 'he-apparatus

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the SME amuses causing the MAC layer to calculate the metrics as a function of a beacon signal in claim 18.

Prior art Proctor fails to disclose or suggest in combination with the remaining limitations: a method for causing a Medium Access Control (MAC) layer to provide metrics associated with respective beam angles of the directional antenna, the Medium Access Control layer accessing metrics from a look up table stored in memory or the Medium Access Control layer calculating metrics, the Medium Access Control layer communicating the metrics to the directional antenna in packets through the Wireless Local Area Network, the communication being configured to cycle through a plurality of antenna positions and provide metrics associated with each of the plurality of antenna position to determine a predetermined antenna position; and based on the metrics, steering the directional antenna to a selected direction associated with an Access Point (AP) in claim 28.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Inquiry

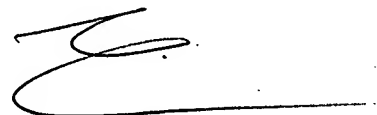
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chuc D. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1829. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F Flex hours.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan can be reached on (571) 272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TC
November 30, 2006



THO PHAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER